

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1) A method of providing a graphical user interface, said method comprising:  
providing an initial configuration of said graphical user interface for use by a user;  
configuring a subsection of said graphical user interface so as to allow said user to  
reconfigure the shape of said subsection during use by said user.
- 2) A method of formatting a graphical user interface, said method comprising:  
providing a graphical user interface;  
defining a subsection of said graphical user interface; and  
designating said subsection of said graphical user interface as reconfigurable, so that  
during use said user can reconfigure said subsection without reconfiguring the entire  
graphical user interface.
- 3) The method as described in claim 2 and further comprising:  
designating only said subsection of said graphical user interface as reconfigurable so  
that during use said user can reconfigure only said subsection without reconfiguring the  
remainder of said graphical user interface.
- 4) The method as described in claim 2 and further comprising:  
defining a maximum expansion size limit for said subsection.
- 5) The method as described in claim 4 and further comprising:  
utilizing a height of said subsection to define said maximum expansion size limit of  
said subsection.
- 6) The method as described in claim 4 and further comprising:  
utilizing a width of said subsection to define said maximum expansion size limit of  
said subsection.
- 7) The method as described in claim 2 and further comprising:  
defining a minimum compression size limit for said subsection.
- 8) The method as described in claim 7 and further comprising:

utilizing a height of said subsection to define said minimum compression size limit of said subsection.

9) The method as described in claim 7 and further comprising:

utilizing a width of said subsection to define said minimum compression size limit of said subsection.

10) The method as described in claim 2 and further comprising:

allowing said user to expand the entire graphical user interface;  
expanding said subsection in a manner proportional to said expansion of said entire graphical user interface; and

discontinuing expansion of said subsection at a predetermined boundary for said subsection while continuing to expand said remainder of said graphical user interface.

11) The method as described in claim 2 and further comprising:

designating a plurality of subsections of said graphical user interface as reconfigurable, so that during use said user can reconfigure at least one of said plurality of subsections without reconfiguring the entire graphical user interface.

12) The method as described in claim 2 and further comprising:

allowing said user to relocate said subsection within the graphical user interface.

13) The method as described in claim 2 and further comprising:

allowing said user to define spatial rules for said subsection.

14) A method of formatting a graphical user interface, said method comprising:

providing a graphical user interface;

defining a subsection of said graphical user interface;

designating said subsection of said graphical user interface as non-reconfigurable, so that during use said user can reconfigure the remainder of said graphical user interface without reconfiguring said subsection of said graphical user interface.

15) The method as described in claim 14 and further comprising:

66 designating only said subsection of said graphical user interface as non-reconfigurable  
67 so that during use said user can reconfigure only the remainder of said graphical user  
68 interface without reconfiguring said subsection of said graphical user interface.

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70 16) The method as described in claim 14 and further comprising:

71 designating a plurality of subsections of said graphical user interface as non-  
72 reconfigurable, so that during use said user can reconfigure the remainder of said graphical  
73 user interface without reconfiguring said plurality of subsections of said graphical user  
74 interface.

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76 17) The method as described in claim 14 and further comprising:

77 allowing said user to reconfigure the remainder of said graphical user interface while  
78 retaining said subsection in a fixed location relative to a reference point.

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80 18) The method as described in claim 14 and further comprising:

81 allowing said user to define spatial rules for the remainder of said graphical user  
82 interface.

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84 19) A method of formatting a graphical user interface, said method comprising:

85 providing a graphical user interface;  
86 designating a subsection of said graphical user interface;  
87 defining spatial properties of said subsection;  
88 permitting a user to reconfigure said graphical user interface while retaining said  
89 spatial properties of said subsection.

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91 20) The method as described in claim 19 wherein said spatial properties apply to a trademark  
92 within said graphical user interface.

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94 21) The method as described in claim 20 wherein said spatial properties apply to a trade  
95 dress of said graphical user interface.

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97 22) The method as described in claim 21 wherein said spatial properties apply to a copyright  
98 of said graphical user interface.

100 23) The method as described in claim 22 wherein said spatial properties apply to the look  
101 and feel of the graphical user interface.